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Dr. Briggs next considered "the Bible, the only fountain of divine authority," and replied to charges made by Dr. Briggs. These charges were to the effect that Dr. Briggs held that the reason and the church were fountains of divine authority. At this point the defendant stopped his reading for the day, and will resume to-morrow.

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## FICKLE FRENCH POLITICS.

M. Rouvier, Minister of Finance, Forced to Tender His Resignation.

Accused of Complicity in the Panama Canal Scandal.—M. Tirard Given His Portfolio.—Debate in the Monetary Conference.

#### TIRARD SUCCEEDS ROUVIER.

The latter was involved in the Panama Canal Scandal and Resigned from the Cabinet.

PARIS, Dec. 13.—The political situation suddenly became critical again this morning, and for a time it was thought there would be another Cabinet upheaval. The Gaulois to-day published what was reported to be an account of the last hours of Baron De Reinach, the banker who died in November under circumstances that led to the general belief that he had committed suicide because of his connection with the Panama scandal. The Gaulois claims to have knowledge of the manner in which Baron De Reinach spent the hours preceding his death, and the story in the paper confirms, in many particulars, what has already been stated and credited to a rumor. The paper says that after the final interview between Baron De Reinach, M. Rouvier and M. Herz, the Baron found that all hope of escaping the consequences of his connection with the Panama scandal was gone. He returned to his home at midnight. Arriving there, he wrote several letters and destroyed a number of documents. After making these preparations he swallowed a quantity of poison. The paper tells its story with great particularity of detail, even saying that the poison was taken at exactly 11 o'clock, in the morning. It is the opinion of the paper that Baron De Reinach was, with Artou, one of the "useful" members known that he had been of great service to the company, and the Panama investigation committee appointed by the Chamber is not trying to learn to whom this money was paid, for what services it was paid. This publication, coupled with the revelations made by the Chamber, is said to have been the visit paid him by Baron Reinach and M. Rouvier, Minister of Finance, on the eve of Baron De Reinach's death, caused consternation among the supporters of the government. The Chamber of Deputies, however, is said to have been prevented from the new Cabinet, so he at once called on President Carnot at the Palace of the Elisee and handed in his resignation.

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Joseph H. Kenny, M. P. for the College Green division of Dublin, declared that the priestly intimidation disclosed at the hearing of the election petition against the return of the Rev. Canon F. J. O'Connell, for South Meath, was a compact between the ministers who constitute the church. It is the duty of the ministers and the church also, to protect the conscience of the church. If the inarguable contains heresy, exactly the same heresies were before the public in my printed books for months previous to the delivery of the address. I continued Dr. Briggs. "If my inarguable is heretical, all those other writings are still more heretical. You are obliged in law to accept my explanation. You cannot find me guilty unless you find that the explanations I shall give of my statements are contrary to essential and necessary articles of a Westminster Confession and of Holy Scripture."

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## THE FEDERATION OF LABOR.

Second Day's Session Marked by a Flood of Resolutions on Many Topics.

Chief Ramsey Says There Will Be No Strike of Telegraph Operators on the Big Four.—Rock Island Men Will Go It Alone.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 13.—At this morning's session of the twelfth annual convention of the American Federation of Labor a message was read from the Chicago Trades Assembly asking that the federation take no action with regard to the Columbian exposition Sunday opening question. Resolutions were introduced on the following subjects: The saloon question; the mistake question; standing of the Knights of Labor in the Federation; political action; granting charters to central bodies; compulsory arbitration; interference of courts and military; two on the national guard; Chinese sailors; Pacific mail steamers; assisted education; calling out of armed bodies during strikes; to amend the alien contract labor law; to establish a sinking fund; favoring amendment of ship commissioners' laws; for the opening of the world's fair on Sunday; for the passage of the Chicago Anarchists' law; for Fielding and Schwab; for a national eight-hour law; for the inauguration of a campaign of education by the Federation; favoring the abolition of trusts and prevention of speculation in food products; for the formation into national bodies of the various bodies of freight-handlers and broom-makers; to abolish United States District Courts. Others were introduced asking investigation of the contract labor system, and seeking other against the Horn Biscuit Company and unfair-made Pittsburgh clothing. It was agreed to take up the question of the celebration of Monday day. The convention then listened to an address by George J. McNeil.

At the afternoon session the question of the celebration of Monday day was discussed. Delegate Skeffington, of Boston, presented the report of the committee on president's resolutions, which was adopted. A resolution was adopted to aid in the defense of the arrested strikers. This was adopted. President White, of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, read a statement of the trouble, and said 235 men are now under indictment, of whom five are charged with murder, over twenty with conspiracy and riot. Four hundred thousand dollars have been given in bail bonds for the release of a number of the strikers. Although many of the strikers are now at work, 2,300 have not got back. The total amount contributed during the strike was \$41,000. The cases of the arrested strikers have cost the association \$10,000 for lawyers and witnesses fees.

New York Central Trouble Adjusted.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—It is now stated that the threatened trouble between the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, representing the Vanderbilt lines and the New York Central railroad, has been dissipated, matters having been satisfactorily arranged between the parties. There was a consultation of the grievance committee of the brotherhood with the Grand Union Hotel this morning, at which Chairman Childs and Chief Arthur were present. At noon the meeting adjourned, and most of the afternoon was spent in the conference. It was stated that the trouble was due to everything that had been arranged satisfactorily, the main point of the question of pay at terminal points having been decided. The matter of the strike was not conceded by the company, Mr. Childs said, was a point of minor importance, as the trouble seems to be over. Both sides have reached the chair, and are perfectly satisfied with the arrangement.

Big Four Operators Will Not Strike.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.